

## Services & Savings Summary

### Assistance Programs for Residents

*Updated April 2015*



Thank you for reading this summary of some services and programs offered by the Town of Natick, from the Commonwealth and from other agencies. Many offer information, referral and other resources. Some help reduce taxes, water/sewer charges and other expenses for seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, income-qualified households and others. We encourage residents in need of assistance to make use of these programs, and to refer others who may be eligible.

#### Participation is confidential.

To help you make decisions about these programs and other opportunities, the Council of Aging and Human Services Department is available to answer questions and provide helpful information. Just call (508) 647-6540 to get started. Related information is on the Town web site at <http://natickma.gov>.

**We need your feedback!** Please give us suggestions on how to make this summary more useful. Send comments to the Town Administrator by phone (508 647-6410); mail (13 East Central St, Natick MA 01760) or email ([selectmen@natickma.org](mailto:selectmen@natickma.org)).

In addition to these programs, the **Natick Service Council** addresses basic needs of Natick residents with its food pantry, eviction/utility shut-off prevention, case management and referral. Call (508) 655-1791 / [www.natickservicecouncil.org](http://www.natickservicecouncil.org)

## Program Descriptions

### Tax Assistance

- **Circuit Breaker:** for qualifying seniors, the Property Tax Circuit Breaker may provide you a refund on your state income taxes. Council on Aging, (508) 647-6540.
- **Property Tax Exemptions:** Natick offers tax exemptions for seniors, veterans, legally blind and other qualifying taxpayers. Requirements vary for each exemption. Assessors, (508) 647-6420.
- **Elderly & Disabled Taxation Fund:** Supported by voluntary donations to assist qualifying taxpayers. Assessors, (508) 647-6420.
- **Tax work-off program:** qualifying homeowners age 60+ and veterans may earn a property tax credit up to \$1,125. Work may be performed by a surrogate. Council on Aging, (508) 647-6540.
- **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC):** a refundable federal tax credit for eligible low to moderate income taxpayers. Human Services, (508) 647-6540.
- **Tax Abatements:** residents who believe a real estate, personal property or motor vehicle was incorrectly assessed should promptly request abatements through an appeal. Timing varies based on the tax. Assessors, (508) 647-6420.
- **Tax Deferral Program:** qualifying homeowners 65+ may defer all or part of their property taxes until the property is sold or transferred, at 4.5% interest. Assessors, (508) 647-6420.
- **Child Tax Credit (CTC):** cuts federal tax bill for some families. Call your tax advisor or Human Services, (508) 647-6540.

#### ▪ **AARP Foundation Tax-Aide**

**Program:** is available free to taxpayers with low and moderate income, with special attention to those over 60. Council on Aging, (508) 647-6540.

### School Fee Assistance

- **School Fee Exemptions:** fees for school-related services such as lunch, transportation and programs may be waived or reduced. School business office, (508) 647-6493.

### Water/Sewer Assistance

- **Water/Sewer discount:** if you have certain local tax exemptions, you may be enrolled in the lowest water and sewer rate. Assessors, (508) 647-6420.

### Employment

- **SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Program):** Assessment, skills training, temporary, part-time job placement for unemployed 55+ workers. Call Operation Able at (617) 542-4180.
- **Brack Career Development Center:** provides range of client-centered employment and career development services. Service Council, (508) 655-1791.
- **Massachusetts One-Stop Career Center:** helps residents with training, resume-writing, interview techniques and other skills. Also works with employers to put them in touch with candidates who may be a good fit. Framingham (508) 766-5700.

## Housing/Home Heating

- **Affordable Housing:** rental/ownership opportunities are available for eligible households. Selectmen, (508) 647-6410.
- **BayPath Elder Services:** advocacy and services for independent living with well-being, comfort and dignity. (508) 573-7200.
- **Disabled Accommodation:** property tax exemption to fund home improvements to accommodate a disabled person age 60+. Assessors, (508) 647-6420. The Mass. Rehab Commission offers no/low-interest home improvement loans, (617) 204-3739.
- **Housing Subsidies:** Natick Housing Authority and South Middlesex Opportunity Council have state/federal, elderly, disabled or Section 8 programs. NHA, (508) 653-2971 or SMOC, (508) 620-2335
- **Home Heating:** many households qualify for help with home heating costs. Human Services, (508) 647-6540.
- **Good Neighbor Energy Fund:** Salvation Army fuel assistance. Human Services, (508) 647-6540.
- **Eversource Electric:** reduced rates to eligible households. (508) 647-6540.
- **Verizon:** reduced installation fees and service plans may be available to qualifying households. Human Services, (508) 647-6540.
- **Cell Phone:** free cell phones / service to eligible households. Human Services, (508) 647-6540.

## Veterans' Services

- **Veterans' Services:** Veterans' Agent offers referrals/assistance to vets and dependents for many programs/ services. Veterans Services, (508) 647-6545.

# Food, Clothing, Children and Household

▪ **Food Pantries** include A Place to Turn (also has clothing) at 99 Hartford St., call (508) 655-8868; and the Natick Service Council, 2 Webster Street; (508) 655-1791.

▪ **Natick Open Door** offers an evening meal Thursdays at 5 in Sherrill Hall at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. (508) 353-2239.

▪ **BayPath Elder Nutrition Program** offers a noontime meal at Community- Senior Center (delivered for housebound seniors). \$3 donation suggested. Council on Aging, (508) 647-6540.

▪ **Food Stamps** available from the Dept. of Transitional Assistance. Human Services, (508) 647-6540 or DTA, (508) 661-6600.

▪ **Salvation Army Vouchers** for clothing and household goods. Council on Aging, (508) 647-6540.

▪ **Camp Wonderland Vouchers:** The Salvation Army provides vouchers for summer programs for youth and seniors; call Human Services at (508) 647-6540.

▪ **Pay-As-You-Throw** blue bags are available to residents who qualify for water/ sewer discounts. Call (508) 647-6420. (Also contact the Service Council.)

▪ **Family Resources of Natick:** resources/referrals to community programs and services, including financial assistance for childcare, preschool and many other programs to help families with young children. Call (508) 655-2557.

▪ **Kids Connect** offers tutoring, after-school programs and workshops for grades 2-12. (508) 652-4211

▪ **Natick Service Council** provides toys and all the components for children’s birthday parties, as well as backpacks of school supplies for families in need of assistance. 508-655-1791.

## Health Services

▪ **Prescription Advantage:** state program reduces prescription drug costs for Medicare enrollees. Call Council on Aging (508) 647-6540, or 800 AGE INFO (800 243-4636).

▪ **Mass MedLine:** eliminate or reduce prescription drug costs. (866) 633-1617.

▪ **SHINE:** Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone provides insurance counseling for elders and Medicare recipients. Council on Aging, (508) 647-6540.

▪ **The Nurse is In:** free, 15-minute private health education/consultation meetings at the Community-Senior Center. Call Human Services (508) 647-6540.

▪ **Natick Visiting Nurse (VNA), Century Health Systems, New Century Homecare Services:** in-home, caring and compassionate multi-disciplinary health care services. (508) 653-3081.

### Financial Assistance Summary for Natick Residents

Town of Natick  
Office of the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator  
13 East Central Street  
Natick, MA 01760

PSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
NATICK, MA  
PERMIT NO. 46

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER  
NATICK, MA 01760

## Natick Services & Programs

*Individuals, families or households may qualify for multiple programs*

### Property Tax Assistance

- ☐ Property Tax Circuit Breaker
- ☐ Property Tax exemptions
- ☐ Elderly & Disabled Taxation Fund
- ☐ Earned Income Tax Credit
- ☐ Tax work-off/abatement/deferral
- ☐ AARP Tax-Aide Program
- ☐ Child Tax Credit

### School Fee and Water/Sewer Assistance

- ☐ School fee exemptions
- ☐ Water/sewer discount

### Employment

- ☐ SCSEP/Operation Able
- ☐ Brack Career Development Center
- ☐ Mass. One-Stop Career Center

### Housing and Home Heating

- ☐ Affordable housing
- ☐ BayPath Elder Services
- ☐ Disabled Accommodation
- ☐ SMOC and NHA housing subsidies
- ☐ Home heating assistance
- ☐ Good Neighbor Energy Fund
- ☐ Eversource Electric
- ☐ Verizon and cell phones

### Veterans’ Services

- ☐ Benefits, services and referrals

### Food, Clothing, Children & Household

- ☐ Food Pantries
- ☐ Natick Open Door
- ☐ BayPath Elder Nutrition Program
- ☐ Food Stamps
- ☐ Salvation Army vouchers
- ☐ Camp Wonderland vouchers
- ☐ Pay-As-You-Throw Bags
- ☐ Family Resources of Natick
- ☐ Kids Connect
- ☐ Service Council birthdays/backpacks

### Health Services

- ☐ Prescription Advantage
- ☐ Mass MedLine
- ☐ SHINE
- ☐ Nursing Services